

# The Argus.

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## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### Some Important Happenings in the South

#### THAT MAY PLEASE OUR READERS

An Assortment of Newsworthy Events That Occurred in our Midst That Cannot Fail to Interest.

The beet sugar factory at Eddy, N. M., has been turning out from 300 to 400 sacks of sugar daily.

Much smallpox has been found in the Indian schools at Zuni, Acamo, Laguna and Palucato, N. M.

The mesquite roots in the streets at Alamogordo, N. M., a town of 800 people, are so large as to require dynamiting.

The war interfered with the Los Angeles fiesta this year. The result of the war may give added enthusiasm to the event next year.

One of the smallpox patients at Fairbanks, Ariz., has died from the effects of the recent cold spell. It is thought. The pesthouse provided by the Fairbank people is a tent.

Redlands has adopted the practical and effective way of dealing with the hobos who are beginning to overrun that city by opening a wood yard to which every son of a gun among them is to be assigned.

The many friends of Capt. McClintock of the Roosevelt Rough Riders throughout Arizona will be pleased to learn that he has nearly recovered from his wound and expects to be in Arizona again soon.

John N. Guyer, who was a candidate for the Legislature from Union county, N. M., has served notice of contest on his political opponent, John C. Slack. The latter was declared elected by five votes.

Wheat is now selling at Solomonville, Arizona, for \$1.10 cash per hundred weight. About two-thirds of the year's crop is now in the hands of local millers, who complain of the competition with the product of Denver mills.

The famous dispute in New Mexico over the Nuestra Señora de los Dolores mine grant, made by the Mexican government in 1830, which has been litigated for years, has been settled out of court. Pending litigation has been dismissed.

Eighteen inches of snow on the level and people enjoying sleighing with in three hours' drive of roses and ripening oranges is one of the illustrations of juxtaposition of extremes in climate which is just now to be seen in San Diego county.

The daily paper published at the University of California states that seventy-eight students from that university enlisted in the army during the recent war. This is certainly a good showing of patriotism for the young men of that institution.

It costs but two-thirds as much to send a package by mail from Los Angeles to Honolulu as to send the same package to Pasadena. If all transportation to the islands were at corresponding rates what a rush of business there would be on the Pacific.

Uri Bennett, who was supposed to have left Del Mar because he was ordered to do so by a vigilance committee, says emphatically that he proposes to return and remain there—which insures more interesting news soon from that town by the sea.

A terrible warning to barbers comes from Phoenix, Ariz., where an apparently healthy young barber who was cutting a customer's hair and at the same time telling him a story, was suddenly stricken by paralysis and deprived utterly of the power of speech.

What sort of doors has the Phoenix jail? The recent escape of prisoners from that institution is explained by the fact that the door was sprung open at the bottom far enough to permit a youthful offender to slip through and he then obtained the key and released the rest.

The Standard Oil Company will undoubtedly make good the loss it suffered by the recent fire in Los Angeles by extra tribute demanded from its patrons. That is to be expected. We can only hope that it will not recoup itself from its customers in this section exclusively.

Thirteen earthquake shocks greatly terrorized the people living at Lerdo, the old Blythe colony, seventy-five miles below Yuma and fifty miles south of the international boundary line, on the 29th ult. The buildings swayed, wagons danced, and the waves of the river rolled high.

The grand jury at Ventura has caused a ripple of surprise by appointing an expert to go through the county books. The books are usually experted every two years, and hardly a year has passed since they were last

examined. Knowing ones whisper that there is something in the wind.

Thirty-three carloads of handsome golden, sour and green oranges have been shipped east from Redlands this season; and in a month or two, after the Easterners have had their mouths all puckered up from sucking this green fruit, these same shippers will wonder what is the matter with the market for California oranges.

Charles D. Newhall, of the Federal forestry department has done well in securing the indictment of two men for leaving camp fires burning on a government reservation. The indictment comes too late to have immediate moral effect in preventing such criminal carelessness, for the camping season is over. If, however, the men are convicted by and by in court their punishment may serve as a warning to campers next season.

The question of the fighting qualities of one colored soldier at least was set to rest at Fort Apache, Ariz., the other day, when a tough citizen drew a gun on the aforesaid soldier and began abusing him. The negro promptly knocked the weapon out of his assailant's hand and knocked him down and was walking on his frame when another citizen came to the man's rescue. The second man was also done up, and both had to be taken to the post hospital for repairs.

The newspapers of Arizona and New Mexico are expecting libel suits galore. Miss Helen V. Herzog, the so-called Cuban heiress, has sued New Mexico's territorial senator, Thomas Hughes, W. T. McCreight, publisher of the Albuquerque Daily Citizen, and W. I. Mitchell, now of Denver, for \$10,000 damages on account of an article published in the Citizen relative to her engagement to Mitchell. As other New Mexico and Arizona papers reprinted the article and added comments of their own, they are expecting soon to hear from Miss Herzog.

Health Officer Stockton of San Diego has begun a crusade against Chinese laundrymen in that city, who sprinkle clothes by emitting water from the mouth. It is a common practice among Chinese laundrymen to sprinkle clothes in this manner. It is not only filthy and disgusting, but it is positively dangerous to the health of their patrons, as many Chinese are afflicted with consumption and the germs of this and other diseases are easily transmitted through napkins, handkerchiefs and other articles coming in contact with the persons of the wearers.

Jose Maria Garcia was shot and killed on the 1st inst., in a wood camp at Stockton pass in Graham county, Arizona. The shooting was done by Jose Carrillo, and a coroner's jury impaneled several days later returned a verdict of justifiable homicide. It seems that the two Mexicans had a difficulty over a matter of \$2, which Carrillo promised to pay a day or two later. Garcia was not satisfied, however, and abused Carrillo in the Mexican tongue, and at the same time started toward the latter with a 50-caliber rifle in his hands. He slipped and fell, however, the rifle flying toward Carrillo, who picked up the weapon and shot and instantly killed Garcia.

He is "Lucky" yet, this man Baldwin, who has for so many years been a favorite of fortune. His manager, Mr. Unruh, who has just come back from the scene of the Baldwin hotel disaster asserts that his chief has been offered enough for the vacant property where the hotel stood to pay off all his debts and leave him several hundred thousand dollars over besides all his other property. That is to say the lot will bring enough to pay off the big mortgage he placed some time ago and leave him a comfortable fortune over, besides removing all liens on his thousands of acres in Southern California. He will have an income of from \$6000 to \$7000 a month clear, which ought to be enough for him to struggle along on with equanimity.

The Fresno Republican throws this handsome bouquet to the chamber of commerce of Los Angeles: "The promptness with which the Los Angeles chamber of commerce came to Fresno's assistance in the matter of preventing the conclusion of a reciprocal commercial treaty between this country and Greece, containing a clause providing for the free admission into the United States of Zante currants is very gratifying to our people. Los Angeles is but slightly interested in the raisin industry, which fact makes her energetic action in our behalf all the more praiseworthy. Should the time ever come (which we hope it will not) when any industry of our southern friends is threatened, it will not be necessary for them to call on us twice for aid. Our voices will be heard in their behalf as soon as we learn of their needs."

We trust that the czar has observed that President McKinley is right in line with him on the disarmament proposition. The President approved the plan, and then, in his message, advocated an increase in our military forces.

## PACIFIC COAST NEWS

### Important Information Gathered Around the Coast.

#### ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

A Summary of Late Events That Are Bolled Down to Suit our Busy Readers.

San Francisco's schools are without coal. The echo of Chicago's cry for rope is about the next thing we expect to hear from that quarter.

San Francisco has a new gas company, which is on the eve of serving its customers with an illuminant of a superior quality at \$1 per 1000 cubic feet.

The British ship Jules Verne has arrived at San Francisco from Newcastle. She had been given up for lost, and 10 per cent reinsurance had been paid. She was eighty-two days making the voyage. Rough weather delayed her.

The annual meeting of the Supervisors of this state will be held at Sacramento on February 14. These yearly conferences are a means of mutual benefit to the Supervisors. Especial interest will be felt this year in the discussion of proposed legislation for the improvement of the public highways.

The steamer Alameda has arrived at San Francisco from Australia, bringing treasure amounting to \$3,510,000. There were 120 boxes of English sovereigns, 5000 sovereigns in a box, and twenty-four boxes filled with bullion. The money is to settle in part the balance of trade between this country and England.

A letter has been received in Stroudsburg, Pa., from William Dennis, a prosperous gold miner of Sierra county, Cal. His relatives have not heard from him since 1849, when he went to California. His aged mother still lives. He sent a nice sum of money to his relatives, but did not explain his long silence.

The Union Trust Company of San Francisco has begun paying for all shares of the San Francisco and San Joaquin valley railroad stock which had been deposited with the company prior to December 6. Over 8500 shares were bought for the Santa Fe road at the agreed price of \$100 a share. This represents over one-third of the stock.

A. de Vrobicund, Consul-General of France, has requested Governor Budd to have an investigation made into the facts surrounding an assault made upon Henri Durand, a miner in the Tesell coal mines, near Livermore, by Mine Boss William Jones on December 3. Durand is in a precarious condition and Jones is at liberty. The Governor will investigate the affair.

The construction of a wharf 1200 feet long for the new proposed Monterey and Fresno railroad, has been begun. The line, as located, runs from Monterey to Fresno, and east to the timber and mineral belt of the Sierra Nevada mountains, passing through the cities of Salinas, San Juan and Hollister and crossing the San Joaquin river at Firebaugh. The first two divisions are to be completed by June 15, 1899.

The Zante currants are grown, picked and packed for market by the lowest class of pauper labor in Southern Europe. The raisin grapes of Central California are grown and sent to market by an intelligent and worthy class of American citizens. This is one of the raisins (as Paddy would say) why the new treaty with Greece would be so ratified as to admit the so-called Zante currants free of duty.

Judgment has been given against the Stockton and Tuolumne county railroad, better known as the Woman's railroad, for \$286, for lumber supplied on the order of Chief Engineer Brainard by P. A. Buell & Co. of Stockton. The suit was brought to recover \$492, but part of the claim was withdrawn, to be charged to Erickson & Co., and Mrs. Elkert, the president of the road, voluntarily paid in court the sum of \$48 leaving the judgment as stated, which does not carry the costs.

It is probably not known to the people of California generally that there is projected in this state an enterprise which involves one of the most novel and daring engineering feats ever undertaken in railroad building. The extension of the Sierra railway, which Prince Andre Poniatowski is president, from Sonora to the high Sierras will cross a canyon 1000 feet deep in stead of bridging the canyon, it is proposed to lower the trains on an elevator on one side and raise them in a similar manner on the other side. The project is said to have originated with Prince Poniatowski and is doubtless without a parallel in the world.

The terms of settlement of the war between the conflicting interests in

the wine trade at St. Helena, Cal., have been embodied in a preliminary agreement. Its object, as stated, is to "formulate plans to the end that there be a legitimate and proper distribution of the profits arising from the viticultural industry of California among the grape-growers, wine-makers and wine-dealers." It is understood that the Associated Wine-dealers bind themselves not to purchase wines in this state except through the Wine-makers' Corporation. The latter fixes the buying price, but does not assume to name the selling figure to consumers. It is expected that a permanent contract will be signed in May by the producers and dealers.

#### THE TWO CANAL SCHEMES.

In discussing the two canal schemes, a subject just now commanding the attention of the business world, the Boston Commercial Bulletin says:

"The question that promises shortly to absorb American interest is that dealing with the construction of an interoceanic canal. Whether or not we owe the stimulus to such broad and radical action as the project demands to the awakening effects of the recent war is not of material importance, although certain incidents in connection with the existence of hostilities have given forceful proofs of the necessity for a facile and expeditious means of entry into the Pacific from the Atlantic ocean.

"We have offered us two routes for exploiting an interoceanic waterway, and partisans of both are zealous to enlist popular favor in their respective merits. Prior to the report of the commission detailed by the United States government to investigate the proposed course through Nicaragua we have, however, few facts upon which to base judgment of the comparative advantages of the two, and in the absence of confirming data concerning the Nicaragua route the present promoters of the Panama canal are strenuously endeavoring to thrust their scheme upon our attention.

"With no knowledge to the contrary, it had become common belief in this country that work upon the Panama route had been allowed to remain where the foundering of the De Lesseps scheme had ignominiously left it. But as soon as the American government began definite action to exploit a way through Nicaragua, there was announced quite suddenly that French capitalists had taken up the work on Panama, had already expended millions of dollars in furthering the construction, and had made progress to the extent of from twofifths to one-half of the entire route.

"It is palpable that one canal will be put through, and equally obvious that this route will be completed by American capital and under American direction alone.

"The difficulties which confronted the engineers in the Panama cut when work was abandoned some years ago, have not yet been forgotten, and even if, as the Panama enthusiasts assert, these natural obstacles have been surmounted, the cost of the implements, property rights and remuneration for labor expended, together with the conservatively estimated cost of completion, makes the total prohibitively high, provided, of course, the alternative route proves at all feasible.

"The cost of the Panama Canal, as work stands today, is about \$125,000,000. It is affirmed that the route can be completed in the course of ten years or so at an additional expenditure of \$100,000,000. The length of the Panama route is forty-six miles, and the chief difficulties to contend with are the rock formations, through which almost the entire proposed way lies, the devastating overflows of the Chagres river and the slides of the Culebra cut.

"The Clayton-Bulwer treaty had nominally deterred Americans from entering upon such a serious undertaking as the construction of the Nicaragua canal, and had even served in a measure to prevent in a thorough investigation of the route contemplated. The present cordial relations of the parties to this treaty removes much of the influence which it earlier exerted, and it is, moreover, a matter of practical assurance that the treaty will be abrogated provided that the entrance upon the work shall demand the cessation of its enforcement.

"The Nicaragua commission has been supplied with \$300,000 and allowed considerable time so as to insure an absolutely thorough investigation and a comprehensive report. It can, therefore, be expected that the commission in its report will give some definite decision concerning the practicability of the Nicaragua canal, and if its conclusions verify the assertions of the unofficial advocates of this route, purchase by the United States of the Panama scheme will be distinctly undesirable.

The Boston paper seems to have overestimated the force of the "cordial relations between the two countries" parties to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. When it comes to a question of business, Cousin John Bull seldom wastes cordial feelings outside the sphere of No. 1.

## MINES AND MINING.

Advices from New York are to the effect that the New York Mining Exchange has been doing an unsatisfactory business, notwithstanding the good intentions of some of its brokers. At a meeting of the directors, held two weeks ago George A. Drake, vice-president of the exchange, resigned. As a consequence of these troubles several stocks have heavily declined.

Mariposa county has a sensation in the Big Betsy mine. This mine, from all accounts, is likely to prove itself one of the richest California has yet known. It is owned by the Golden Crown Mining Company and is one of six claims owned by the same company. Work was commenced on it a year ago, and the main shaft is now down over 300 feet, and in ore all the way. The average width of the ledge is reported to be fourteen feet. An assay of the ore made in Chicago showed \$72 to the ton with a good percentage of sulphurets. A ten-stamp mill will be erected and will be in operation by March 1 next. The stock in the company is principally owned by business men of San Jose, Cal.

Although by far the greater number of mines in California have been compelled to suspend operations this year for lack of water for power purposes, some of the largest producers in the state have, says the San Francisco Chronicle, been able to continue throughout the entire season, and on several of them preparation are being made to conduct work on a far more extensive scale in the future. Word comes from the Gwin, in Calaveras county, that the ditch bringing water from the Mokelumne river is full and overflowing, and that with forty stamps running, the mine is producing \$1000 a day. The old shaft, which it was feared at one time might cause serious trouble has been entirely pumped out, and is being put in condition for use as a medium of communication for construction work in the new development section. Levels have been opened at 1000, 1200, 1400 and 1500 feet, and enough ore is in sight to keep the mills going for five years to come. In consequence 10,000 cubic yards of earth are to be cleared away to permit of the erection of sixty more stamps, forty of which will be built and placed in operation without loss of time. For the cutting away of the great amount of earth and rock, hydraulic power will be employed.

The Spokesman-Review is authority for the statement that the Turner combine received between \$8.25 and \$8.50 per share for their Le Roi holdings. Under the terms of the agreement with the British-American corporation they are to receive \$7.25 in money and the clean-up of all the ore on hand at the Northport smelter. At the time the contract was signed there were about 17,000 tons of ore on hand. It was agreed that the Turner people should have the use of the smelter for the treatment of this ore, and it was further agreed that the B. A. C., if it so wished, should have the option of sampling the ore and paying the Turner people its cash equivalent. The change in the management of the Le Roi has resulted in the reduction of the shipments from the old standard of 3000 tons to a trifle over a third of that quantity—1100 tons. It is reported that considerable prospecting is being done on some placer locations on the west banks of the Columbia river about eight miles below Kettle Falls. The black sand and gravel runs well in colors and an effort is being made to save a large amount of the very fine gold which is readily washed away in the panning process. The ground is rich enough so that preparations are being made to work the property all winter.

Ore is now being shipped, all the way from Kootenai, in British Columbia, to England for treatment. It seems that a Mr. Brown, representing the Smelting Corporation, limited, with large works at Manchester, Eng., is buying ore in Kootenai and which he is shipping to Manchester. The Spokesman-Review has an interview with him in which he said: "The report is true that the smelting corporation I represent is buying ore in Kootenai camps. I have purchased 220 tons of concentrates from the Highlander mill at Ainsworth, and shall ship the same to Vancouver, from thence round the Horn to England. The value of these concentrates will average 68 per cent lead and 32 ounces silver. This will be, I believe, the first shipment made from the Kootenai of silver-lead concentrates to an English smelter. We can save for the mine owner about \$3 per ton over American smelter charges and we pay spot cash for our ore, which is also a consideration. You see, we have no large duty to pay, and beside, by our own process for extracting the silver from the zinc, we make another saving, whereas American smelters are forced to charge higher for ores containing a percentage of zinc; in other words the Galena ores going to the states have to pay a high penalty on the zinc."